



michoud messenger

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STS-127 Crew Visits MAF

Astronauts from the STS-127 mission to the International Space Station visited MAF September 10th to thank Michoud employees for their work on the external tank.

Mark Polansky commanded the shuttle *Endeavour* for STS-127. Douglas Hurley served as the pilot. Mission specialists were **Christopher Cassidy**, **Thomas**

Marshburn, **David Wolf** and **Julie Payette**, a Canadian Space Agency astronaut.

The mission delivered **Timothy Kopra** to the station as a flight engineer and science officer and returned Japanese astronaut **Koichi Wakata** to Earth. Hurley, Cassidy, Marshburn and Kopra made their first trips to space.

Hurley is a graduate of Tulane University and said his trip back to New Orleans bought back many fond memories. Hurley carried a Tulane flag into space and delivered it to the uptown campus.

STS-127 was the 29th shuttle mission to the International Space Station.

Astronauts from STS-127 are introduced to Michoud employees September 10th. The astronauts addressed about 300 MAF personnel on the floor of the assembly facility. They explained their mission to the International Space Station and thanked workers for producing the external tank that propelled the space shuttle into orbit.



Out with the Old, in with the New



An excavator bucket frames the scene as heavy machine operators continue demolition on Building 111. In the early days of the Korean Conflict, Chrysler used the building to test 12 cylinder air cooled engines for the Sherman and Patton Tanks.

Camera passes are no longer required at MAF. Photographs are permitted except in areas restricted by NASA. Be aware of any restrictions before taking photos.



MAF Work Request Forging Ahead Smoothly

The first Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) Work Request Process Development Kaizen wrapped up Aug. 26. Kaizen is a Japanese word adopted into English referring to a philosophy or practices focusing on continuous improvement in manufacturing activities. The workshop at MAF looked at ways to improve the way business is done at the site.

“The MAF Work Request (MWR) process is critical to Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract (MSFOC) operations here at MAF as it dictates the way we receive and execute service requests for the entire MAF site,” said **Sean Barnes** from the MSFOC Mission Assurance Office. Barnes added that the Kaizen team did an outstanding job and produced some great results.

“This was the very first Kaizen event performed on the MSFOC contract and it was a huge success.”

The Kaizen team identified solutions for 35 major issues associated with the MAF MWR current state process. The team identified and removed waste, optimized flow and reduced friction to develop a future state that will improve the timeliness, efficiency and quality of the MWR process.

If you have any ideas to improve the way we do business here at MAF, contact **Joe Wiley** at (504) 257-2143 or joseph.d.wiley@nasa.gov.



Kaizen team members: (L-R) Shelly Breault, Gretchen Ezell, Larry Koenenn, Debbie Lorino, Chris Packwood, and Dominick Digange.

Orion Update



From foreground to background: Lockheed Martin employees Wes Martin, Jerry Majors, and Ray Ziblich carefully observe the pin tool during a recent weld. The team was using Friction Stir Welding to join the Aft Bulkhead to the Aft Ring of the Orion Ground Test Article's Crew Compartment.

Supporting ET



Inspectors Thad Pitre and Marcus Cuillier complete the proof load for the cell E - LH sling (spreader and hoist assembly) last month. The LH sling is used to move flight hardware into and out of the cells. The inspection represents the MSFOC's first by the NDE group to successfully support transportation and handling for the External Tank.

School's in Session

Students at Sarah T. Reed Elementary in New Orleans East recently received a care package from Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) employees. Jacobs General Manager **Mike Dawson** delivered \$1000 worth of school supplies and a check for \$500 to Sarah Reed Principal Daphyne Burnett Sept. 21.

Maryalice Daly, who helps coordinate Jacobs community outreach at MAF, organized the event. "This was a team effort; everyone got involved," said Daly.

Over a two-week period in August, MAF workers dropped off pens, pencils, folders, paper and many other supplies for the school. Daly said the MAF department admins were instrumental in galvanizing support for the drive. Students recently returned to



Covington High School 9th grade physical science teacher Deidra Bingham and Steve Turner of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility get ready to address students September 9th. Turner explained how science is vital to NASA's mission. He urged the freshman to study hard and get excited about science.



Jacobs GM Mike Dawson, Josh West of MAF site services, Sarah Reed Elementary principal Daphyne Burnett and Maryalice Daly stand in front of school supplies at Sarah Reed Elementary in New Orleans East September 21st.

school following a long summer break.

"We look forward to our continuing relationship with Reed Elementary," added Daly.

Josh West of the MAF site services department helped Daly with the supply drive. West collected the supplies from drop off boxes around the facility, inventoried the list and helped deliver the goods to Sarah Reed Elementary.

"It was nice to know we helped kids get off to a good start this school year," added West. He said the kids were very appreciative to get the new supplies.

If you are interested in donating your time to speak to school children as part of the MAF outreach program, contact john.filostrat@nasa.gov or (504) 257-6226.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Ladies, if you would excuse me for a moment, I would like to speak with the men in private.

Men, in case you did not know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It means something special to me because five years ago on the day after Mother's Day, my mother died from breast cancer. She battled it hard for about four years. First she had a mastectomy, followed by radiation and chemotherapy. Then after a little more than a year, it struck the other side; another mastectomy, more radiation, and more chemo. Three months after she was declared "Clear," the cancer came back for a third time. She knew the fight was done; she had lost. She knew she was going to die, and she accepted it bravely.

However, my mom wanted to warn people about breast cancer before she died. The reason she got

hit so hard was that she never really took it seriously. She wasn't very good about self-checkups, or mammograms, so she was diagnosed very late. The part I feel worst about is that I don't know why. It's ironic in a way. As close as I was to my mother, and as much as we talked, the one thing we didn't talk about killed her.

So men, in honor of my mother's wish and National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I am asking you to talk to your mother, talk to your wife, talk to your girlfriend, your sister, or your daughter about breast cancer. Make sure she knows how important she is to you, and how important it is for her to get a checkup. Early detection can prevent her from going through the same thing my mother went through.

– **Thomas Lavelle**, Jacobs Safety Manager

Letters from Leadership

As I begin my second full month as the manager here at MAF, NASA is facing a major transition; and with transition will come change; and change is always difficult. I am confident that MAF will continue to play a significant role in the future of human space flight.

As many of you know, the executive summary of the report from the Augustine Commission was delivered last month. The final report is still being compiled and edited and will be released after the committee completes its work. NASA is awaiting this final report and I don't expect that there will be anything significantly different than what was discussed in the many public forums held by the Commission. NASA is currently working with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Executive Office of the President to plan the next steps leading to a decision by the President. NASA is now and will continue work with the administration to determine how best to shape the agency's human space flight efforts for the future. However, until the Commission's final report is released and the options thoroughly considered, it is premature to draw conclusions about any changes in our current human space flight plans. In the meantime, the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, and Constellation Programs are continuing to execute according to the currently baselined schedules.

Meanwhile, MAF is staying focused on its current missions in support of the Programs. As we heard from NASA Administrator **Charlie Bolden** during his visit to MAF in August, the President is committed to a strong human spaceflight program. Here at MAF, we continue to deliver external tanks for the remaining space shuttle missions. We are building hardware for the *Orion* capsule, and are finishing the facility modifications for full production. The *Ares* Upper Stage has completed designs for their major facility work, and many components of manufacturing tooling have been delivered. In fact, in mid-September, the agency has committed significant funds to begin the construction of the Upper Stage High Bay. Construction will begin shortly.

The MAF work force is the most dedicated and skilled group of folks that I have had the privilege to be associated with, and I am proud to join the team. Please continue to maintain your focus on what we've been doing successfully for many years.

– **Steve Doering**, Acting MAF Manager



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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